



## Walk 1 - Westbourne and Back

5 km, 3.1 miles, approx. 1 hour 30 mins

 [emsworthwalks.org](http://emsworthwalks.org)



Turn left out of the Blue Bell to the southern end of the square, turn west into Nile Street to the edge of the Town millpond, then turn right and walk up to Havant Road.

Use the pelican crossing to cross over Havant Road, then turn left and immediately right so you are heading north up Bridge Road.

To the right of Bridge Road runs the West Brook, a tributary of the River Ems, which we will meet later in this walk as it runs down to the sea through the Slipper millpond.

You can also get a good view on the right of the local parish church of St James. This church was built in 1841. Prior to that, Emsworth was part of the parish of Warblington.

It was only in 1866 that Emsworth 'gained independence' and became its own parish. In 1866. The population of Emsworth was 1,800 people. Today it is around 10,000 people.

At the end of Bridge Road, turn left into Victoria Road, and after about 50 metres turn right into Washington Road. This road turns into a footpath under the railway and the A27 before emerging into the recreation ground.

Continue north on the path along the western edge of the cricket pitch and past the children's play area and skateboard park. Then continue straight along the line of trees along the edge of the recreation ground.

At the end there is a short footpath on the right that takes you along to Horndean Road. When you reach Horndean Road, cross over and turn left and walk about 50 metres north.

Turn right into Bellevue Lane. Leaving St James' Primary school on your right, continue to the end of Bellevue Lane and on the right, before you start up the house drives ahead of

you, you take the footpath that leads through to Christopher Way and a T-junction with New Brighton Road.

Cross over New Brighton Road and turn left heading north. After about 100 metres, turn right into Wickor Way.

Walk to the end of Wickor Way and turn left into Westbourne Avenue. Keep heading north and you come onto a footpath that runs between the houses and an open space on the right until you reach a T-junction with Westbourne Road.

You are now about to cross from Hampshire into West Sussex. In fact the name Westbourne derives from its position in the far west of Sussex. The border actually runs along the line of the River Ems, but it does mean that Westbourne is distinctly different from Emsworth in terms of its governance, council etc.

Turn right onto Westbourne Road and walk along the road round the edge of the churchyard.

The walk now follows the river to the right, but if you wish, you can take a little excursion into the village of Westbourne.



There are a few pubs in Westbourne if you feel the need for some sustenance at this stage of the walk – it is about half way.

Also, take a look at the local parish church of St John the Baptist. It is an extremely pretty church, and retains its traditional walled churchyard and avenue of yew trees. The church dates back to medieval times.

The walk now follows the line of the River Ems south, so turn right onto the footpath from Westbourne Road just the other side of the bridge over the Ems, right opposite the churchyard.

The walk then curves round to the right between the gardens of the large houses in Westbourne and then turns into a muddy track that leads south towards the A27.

At the southern end of this track, the track bears left up to a bridge over the A27.

At the southern end of the bridge, turn right onto the track that leads up to Lumley. After passing about three large houses on the left you come down to Lumley Mill on the right hand side of the track.

Lumley Mill was built as a water-powered flour mill in 1740 by Lord Lumley. It is later than the tidal mills around the harbour, and emphasises the importance of this crop to the area back in the 17th, 18th and 19th century.

Flour dust is highly inflammable, and Lumley Mill was destroyed by fire and was rebuilt at the beginning of the 20th century with a much smaller mill.

In fact by the middle of the 19th century, many of the mills in the area were made uneconomic by the import of cheap flour from North America.

In order to try and stay competitive, mills such as Emsworth Slipper Mill and Lumley Mill installed steam engines in the late 19th century, but this did little to stem the tide of cheap imports, so that today, none of these mills still exist as mills or operate.

Continuing the walk, you need to turn right off the track adjacent to Lumley Mill onto a pathway signposted as the Sussex Border path.

After about twenty metres, turn left onto a path between a fence on the left hand side and the field behind Lumley Mill on the right. This ends in a T at the end where you need to turn left (south) onto a path that passes underneath the railway to the end of Seagull Lane.

At this point, turn left into the Brook Meadow Nature Reserve, and follow the footpath to the right heading south through the Reserve.

I quote from the Brook Meadow Conservation Group website:

“Brook Meadow is a lovely wet meadow in Emsworth. It consists of 5 acres of grassland, surrounded by woodlands and flanked by two streams. Brook Meadow is full of birds, insects and wild flowers and has Water Voles in the river. It is designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation and is also a Local Nature Reserve.

Brook Meadow is managed by the Brook Meadow Conservation Group on behalf of Havant Borough Council. It has two attractive interpretation boards with original artwork from a local artist and four signcases with local news and photos

Come along and pay a visit. It refreshes the senses and uplifts the spirits. What more could you ask?”

Follow the footpath south alongside the River Ems through the Reserve. It swings round to the left, but you need to branch off to the right down to a footbridge and then right in towards the centre of Emsworth.

Heading west, follow the path along the southern edge of the car park and come up to the North Street roundabout, where a subway takes you under the A259 and up into the High Street.

Carry on down the High Street and you find yourself back in Emsworth Square. From the Square, head down South Street where you return to the Blue Bell and some welcome rest and refreshment.

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